

## **OLAF: ‘we are trying to be more transparent’ [INTERVIEW: Giovanni Kessler]**

Openness and accountability will be new way forward for anti-fraud office

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**Giovanni Kessler, Director General of the EU’s Anti-Fraud Office, OLAF, speaks to New Europe’s Federico Grandesso about recent changes to the structure and procedures of the organisation, as well as its new communications policy, and about ongoing fraud cases in the energy market.**

**New Europe:** Mr. Kessler, why did you recently carry out a substantial reorganisation of your office?

**Giovanni Kessler:** When I took office in February 2011, OLAF had been growing steadily since its creation in 1999. I felt a comprehensive review of our work and organisation was needed to focus our resources on prioritised activities and increase both efficiency and quality of our investigations.

During this review, we identified weaknesses in our structures and procedures and later on, we - management and staff together – also found solutions to these problems. Important input to this process was opinions from the Court of Auditors, the European Parliament, Member States and other stakeholders, as well as issues raised in the currently ongoing discussion between the European Parliament, Council and the Commission about the reform of OLAF.

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